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picturesque mountains, composing an amphitheatre interrupted only towards the north-west. To the north of the city the Tolka, a small stream, empties itself at Ballybough bridge; while on the southern side, the Dodder, curving northwards for some distance, terminates with the Liffey in the harbour; both rivers, the Tolka and the Dodder, thus constituting natural boundaries or limits to which, though the city has not yet reached, it is rapidly extending. The latter river, for a few miles towards the base of the Dublin mountains, in which it has its source, serves as a convenient line of division between districts geologically distinct. To the south of the Dodder we encounter none but the primitive rocks of Werner; while in proceeding northwards from it, formations are met with termed secondary, in the language of that distinguished systematist. In the former direction the massive granite and its accompanying schist arrest the attention of the most uninstructed observer. The havoc which has been made of the Killiney hills with a view to the construction of the magnificent Pier at Kingstown, has familiarized every class of our citizens with the appearance and physical characters of granite; while the Scalp, a chasm in one arm of Shankhill mountain, within a couple of miles of Enniskerry, presents the mica-slate at its junction with the subjacent granite, and exhibiting a singularly contorted and dislocated appearance probably due to that convulsion of nature by which it was exposed. These are the rocks which constitute the chief substratum of the southern portion of the environs of Dublin. To the student in geology they are interesting in the highest degree. They are unquestionably the oldest deposits found upon the oxidized crust of our planet, as would appear proved by the absence from them of all organic remains; or, if of more modern origin, they must have been upheaved by the agency of subterranean heat. Whichever hypothesis theorists may adopt respecting their manner of formation, they are from their geological position, and the simplicity and uniformity of their composition, those which should be first examined by him who enters upon the study of the structure of the earth.

But granite and mica-slate are not the only rocks to be met with to the south of the Dodder, and within a short distance of Dublin. The greater and lesser Sugarloafs are composed exclusively of quartz rock, a circumstance to which with the Paps of Jura, they owe the conical contour of their highest points. The rugged ridge of Brayhead is also in a great measure quartz rock, but here it is interstratified with clay-slate, and also with green-stone, a member of the trap family of rocks. The green-stone however here is distinguished from every modification of the same stone which the writer has seen elsewhere, by its fracture being studded with minute glistening scales of mica. What theory will account for the structure of Brayhead? Is it to be traced to the agency of fire? Or was it the result of aqueous depositions? Neither of these rival hypotheses seems to us adequate *per se* to the explanation of all the phenomena. But, were we forced to decide between them, we would not hesitate to avow that existing appearances, in the present as well as in many similar cases, would seem better accounted for by attributing to all the formations denominated *primitive*, an igneous rather than an aqueous origin.

The primitive rocks to the south of Dublin are not destitute of other sources of scientific attraction. In them are found a number of simple minerals, distinguished some by their rarity, others by their commercial value. And they are also the depositories of metallic ores. At Killiney alone several curious fossils have been met with. Spodumene occurs here in considerable abundance, a mineral very rare in other countries, and in great request with chemists and collectors, in consequence of its including about 8 per cent. of lythia, the new alkali not long since detected by arfwedson in Ocjalite. Here also a new mineral has been discovered by Dr. Taylor, of Cork, closely resembling spodumene, but divided from it by unequivocal distinguishing characters. He has called it Killinite from its locality, and minutely described it in the Transactions of the Royal Irish academy. Garnets also are frequently met with at Killiney of small size, but beautifully transparent, and of the most regular crystalline form. To the preceding may be added beryl, apatite—a mineral resembling the aqua-

marine in form, but totally different in its composition and structure,—tourmaline, shorl, &c. &c.

The only metallic ore which has been found in quantity in this district is galena, or the common sulphuret of lead. At Killiney, opposite to Dalkey island, it was once abundantly raised; but the works have long since been abandoned. The remains of a shaft and adit connected with the mine are still visible immediately over the strand, not far from the point at which occurs a remarkable junction of the schist and granite. To the south-west of Killiney, on the side of Shankhill, a much more productive vein is at present worked by the Mining Company of Ireland. The ore is, as usual, chiefly galena, but the white lead or carbonate has also been found, though sparingly. On Shankhill also there is a tower for the manufacture of shot, and in its immediate vicinity, at Ballycorus, there are blast and wind furnaces, to which the ore is carried for smelting, not only from the adjacent mine, but from others in the possession of the same company at the Seven Churches. The sulphate of barytes or heavy spar, which occurs very generally in the matrix of the ores of lead, may be picked up in abundance on Shankhill in the neighbourhood of the shaft, and is frequently sought for by the Dublin Chemists with a view to the preparation of a very powerful medicine, and certain indispensable chemical tests.

[To be continued.]

CURRAN.

One morning, at an inn in the south of Ireland, a gentleman travelling upon mercantile business, came running down stairs a few minutes before the appearance of the stage coach, in which he had taken a seat for Dublin. Seeing an ugly little fellow leaning against the door-post, with dirty face and shabby clothes, he hailed him and ordered him to brush his coat. The operation proceeding rather slowly, the impatient traveller cursed the lazy valet for an idle good-for-nothing dog, and threatened him with corporal punishment on the spot, if he did not make haste and finish his job well before the arrival of the coach. Terror seemed to produce its effect; the fellow brushed the coat and then his trowsers with great diligence, and was rewarded with sixpence, which he received with a low bow. The gentleman went into the bar, and paid his bill, just as the expected vehicle reached the door. Upon getting inside guess his astonishment to find his friend the quondam waiter, seated snugly in one corner, with all the look of a person well used to comfort. After two or three hurried glances, to be sure that his eyes did not deceive him, he commenced a confused apology for his blunder, condemning his own rashness and stupidity—but he was speedily interrupted by the other exclaiming, "Oh never mind, make no apologies—these are hard times, and it is well to earn a trifle in an honest way—I am much obliged for your handsome fee for so small a job—my name, sir, is John Philpot Curran, pray what is yours?" The other was thunderstruck by the idea of such an introduction; but the drollery of Curran soon overcame his confusion; and the traveller never rejoiced less at the termination of a long journey, than when he beheld the distant spires of Dublin glitter in the light of the setting sun.

NAPOLEON.

The Rev. Mr. Redmond, P. P. of Ferns, in Ireland, when studying in France, spent a summer in Bas Poitou; Napoleon was there at the same time, and both slept in the same apartment. The Corsican was continually making machinery, which he would try on a water-course. One day the party went shooting—Napoleon of the number. He was not very active; and, in leaping over a deep brook, fell in. He was almost drowned, when Mr. Redmond presented the end of his fowling-piece to him, (having first discharged it,) and thus rescued from an ignoble death the man who afterwards ruled half the world.

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